

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-05
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 OIC-02
/143 W

-----092779 231927Z /40

R 231449Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3365

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 19458

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: COMMON FUND NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 276348, (B) STATE 277891, (C) BONN 19109

1. DRAWING ON REF (B), EMBOFF DISCUSSED U.S. POSITION
ON CF NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY "SECOND WINDOW" WITH
DR. MUELLER-THUNS AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS. MUELLER-
THUNS SAID THAT THE U.S. POSITION APPEARED TO CORRESPOND
EXACTLY TO THE VIEWS OF THE FRG AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE
POSITION OF THE FRG, AS DECIDED BY THE FEDERAL CABINET
ON OCTOBER 12, WAS OPPOSITION TO A SECOND WINDOW IR-
RESPECTIVE OF HOW IT MIGHT BE FINANCED. THE ONLY STEP
BEYOND THAT WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
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COVERAGE BY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF THOSE AREAS
ENVISAGED UNDER "OTHER MEASURES" SHOULD BE STUDIED
FOR POSSIBLE GAPS.

2. MUELLER-THUNS INSISTED THAT DESPITE RUMORS TO THE
CONTRARY (SEE REF. (C)), FRG POLICY ON THE CF HAD NOT
CHANGED, BUT HE ADMITTED THAT AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRG

WAS NOT UNIVERSAL. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS REPORTEDLY UNHAPPY WITH WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE AN OVERLY NEGATIVE POSITION; HOWEVER, THE MINISTRIES OF ECONOMICS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND FINANCE ARE OPPOSING ANY CHANGE. MINISTER OF ECONOMICS GRAF LAMBSDORFF IS SCHEDULED TO TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ON THE SUBJECT. FOR HIS PART, MUELLER-THUNS BELIEVES THAT THE FRG WILL CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THE GROUP B POSITION OF OPPOSING ANY FINANCIAL ROLE FOR A CF ON OTHER MEASURES.

3. WHEN ASKED IF MINISTER LAMBSDORFF WOULD LIKE ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION FROM US, MUELLER-THUNS SAID HE FELT THAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS PERFECTLY CLEAR, AND HE WOULD REPORT SUCH TO MINISTER LAMBSDORFF.

4. FINALLY, HE EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING CLOSE US-FRG CONTACT IN THE CLOSING WEEKS OF THE SECOND UNCTAD CF NEGOTIATING SESSION. HE PROMISED TO KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF ANY CHANGES IN FRG POLICY AND ASKED US TO RECIPROCATE.

5. THE ECON/COMM. MINISTER LATER RECEIVED A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT REACTION FROM LAUTENSCHLAGER, FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID THAT THE CABINET DECISION ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMON FUND LEFT A LOT OF ROOM FOR FLEXIBILITY. HE SAID THE FRG DID NOT WANT A REPETITION OF NAIROBI, WHERE THE FRG TOOK THE BLAME FOR A HARD POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE LDCS. NEITHER WOULD THE FRG BECOME THE WHIPPING-BOY IN EC, BEHIND WHICH OTHER MEMBERS COULD HIDE. HE SAID THE FRG COULD NOT GO AS FAR AS THE FRENCH AND BRITISH, ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THE FRG POSITION COULD BE BROUGHT CLOSER TO THE FRENCH/BRITISH POSITION. LAUTENSCHLAGER VENTED HIS IRE OVER THE RIGID POSITION OF THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD NO WORRIES ABOUT THE U.S. GOING TOO FAR IN CONCESSIONS TO THE LDCS. HE WAS AWARE THAT THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY HAD BEEN UNHAPPY WITH FORMULATIONS MADE BY GENSCHER IN A RECENT SPEECH AND ADMITTED THAT THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY WAS THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS. HE RECALLED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMICS MINISTER WAS THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS STILL CHAIRMAN OF THE FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

6. LOECK OF THE CHANCELLERY, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING LAUTENSCHLAGER CONVERSATION, DID NOT COMMENT, AND IT

IS INDEED POSSIBLE THAT THE CHANCELLOR IS CLOSER TO
ECONMIN POSITION THAN TO THAT OF FONMIN.
STOESSEL

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Sent Date: 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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